- Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and to prevent throwing of unburnt dead bodies into the river.
- Improvement of bathing ghats to allow the use of rivers for bathing by people.

(c) and (d) Inclusion of more rivers and towns under National River Conservation Plan will depend on the pollution status of the water body and the availability of funds in the Plan.

(e) On completion of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, the water quality o river Ganga has shown improvement over the pre-Ganga Action Plan period water quality. It is observed that in 1986, the bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) which is an indicator of pollution of river water quality was ranging from 5.5 to 15.5 mg/l (as against a standard of less than 3 mg/l) in the critical stretch of Ganga from Kannauj to Varanasi. As against this, the values of BOD in 2002 in the stretch of Kannauj to Kanpur and Allahabad to Varanasi is (1.20 to 4.90 mg/l) and (2.50 to 8 mg/l) respectively. Similarly, dissolved oxygen (DO) levels which indicate the health of the river, were in the range of 5.9 to 6.6. mg/l (as against a standard of greater than 5 mg/l) in 1986 in the Allahabad—Varanasi stretch and in 2002 the range improved to 7.5 to 13.0 mg/l.

Vision Statement on the problems related on Environmental Health

2116. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Ministry have issued a Vision Statement on the problems related to environmental health and how to deal with the adverse effects of increasing hazardous and bio-medical wastes, radiation, climate change etc.;

(b) if so, the details there of and/or time bound plan drawn up, if any, to check the adverse effects of increasing hazard to environmental health; and

(c) the machinery established for close coordination with the States to monitor implementation of these specific plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Vision Statement on Environment and Human health includes environmental health problems posed by air pollution, water pollution, radiation, noise pollution, climate change, indoor air pollution, hazardous and bio-medical wastes. The Vision Statement has also outlined the need for institutional strengthening, public partnership, implementation and cordination mechanism for various programmes and activities. However, no time bound plan has been drawn.

(c) An Environment and Human Health Cell (EHHC) has been created in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to act as a nodal point for addressing relevant issues pertaining to environment health. Besides, an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Environment and Human Health and a Task Force on Environment and Human Health have been constituted by the MoEF to monitor and oversee implementation of various programmes and activities.

Grant to NGOs for afforestation

†2117. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs which were sanctioned the grant by the Central Government during the year 2002-03 for afforestation and the details thereof, State-wise;;

(b) the action being taken by Government against the NGOs who have not utilized the financial assistance given by Government for afforestation and details thereof, State-wise; and;

(c) the rules laid down for the recovery of the amount from these passive organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) During the year 2002-03, the grant assistance were sanctioned to 141 Non-Governmental

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.